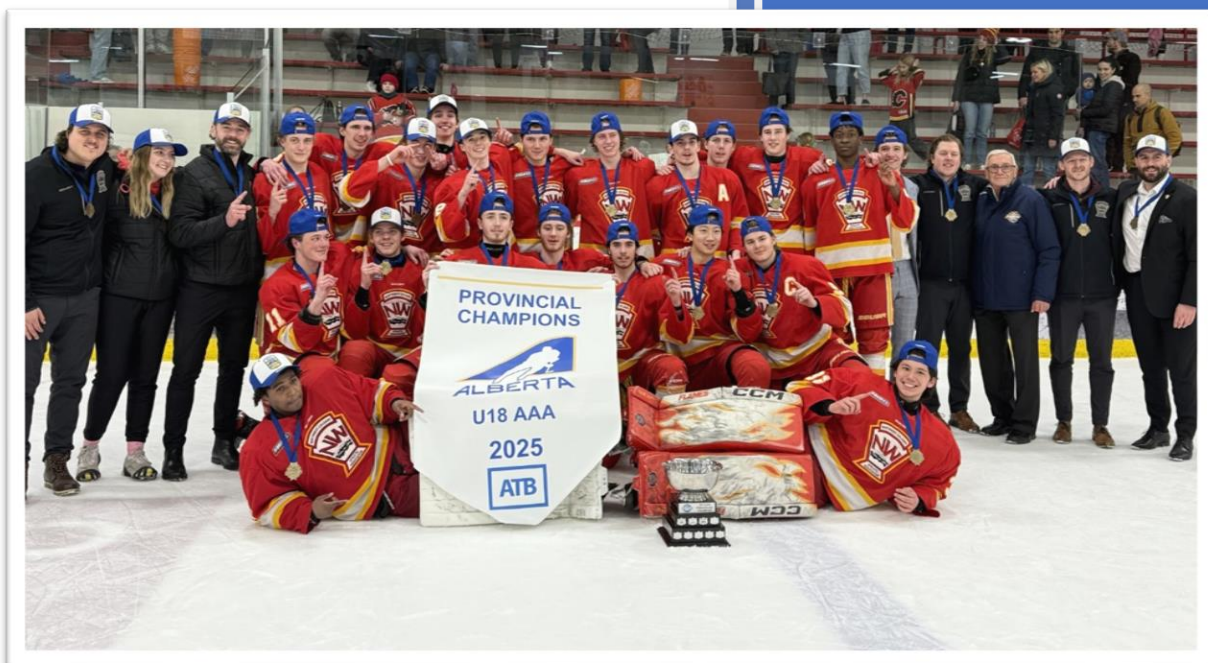


## APPENDIX “III”



# ‘AAA’ HOCKEY





## **‘AAA’ HOCKEY**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

‘AAA’ Hockey ensures that players across Alberta have an opportunity to access play at the highest level they can attain, by establishing a regional hockey structure for the top level of Players. It provides movement options to meet the needs of the player, as well as the ‘AAA’ teams. ‘AAA’ Hockey is designed around guiding principles that require all parents, coaches, and Minor Hockey Association’s (MHAs) to always act in the best interest of the athlete to help them develop and progress through the hockey system.

This document outlines regulations that apply to the Leagues, MHA’s, Teams, and Players that are operating and/ or participating in ‘AAA’ hockey. All Minor Hockey Regulations apply to ‘AAA’ hockey, unless specific Regulations herein alter the meaning for the purpose of ‘AAA’ Hockey.

### **2. LEAGUE STRUCTURE**

- 2.1 Hockey Alberta has identified the Alberta Elite Hockey League (AEHL) as the sole league operating ‘AAA’ hockey (U18 AAA, U17 AAA, U15 AAA and U13 AAA) in Alberta. Hockey Alberta has established the Elite Hockey Committee to implement and oversee AEHL operations. The committee implements and monitors the day-to-day operations of League play in accordance with the established Bylaws, Regulations, Policies and Procedures.
- 2.2 The AEHL may use conferences and/ or divisions to operate ‘AAA’ Hockey across the Province. If an MHA or organization operates a conference or division, they will follow these Regulations, as well as their own Bylaws, Regulations and Policies while operating the conference or division.
- 2.3 The member MHA’s and/or Teams that have been assigned to each specific conference or division will have voting rights at league, conference and/ or division meetings.

### **3. DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions of words and phrases are to be applied solely for the purposes of the ‘AAA’ hockey and may or may not be the same as those definitions outlined in other sections of the Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada Bylaws and Regulations.

- (a) **“Draw Zone”** is defined as a group of MHAs that makes up the feeder system from which each ‘AAA’ Team can recruit and/ or affiliate registered Players.
- (b) **“Tryout Roster”** is the official roster used by ‘AAA’ Teams during the formal tryout process to ensure players are eligible to participate in pre-season and/ or tournament game(s).

### **4. CRITICAL DATES**

April 1	<b>MHAs can begin operating spring player identification camps</b>
May 1	<b>‘AAA’ Player Movement Application process opens</b>
July 1	Deadline for ‘AAA’ Player Movement Applications to be submitted
August 15	‘AAA’ Player Evaluation & Selection Processes can start
September 1	Exhibition Games can start
September 15	Deadline for Players to declare to participate in tryouts
September 18	U18 ‘AAA’ teams must cutdown to no more than 40 players
September 25	U18 ‘AAA’ teams must cutdown to no more than 25 players



## **‘AAA’ HOCKEY**

October 1	‘AAA’ Regular Season schedule can begin *
October 15	Tryout Rosters are complete* (Players participating in tryouts must be registered to a team or returned to a lower level)
January 10	Final date to Release a Player from a Team
January 15	Deadline for MHA's to file Affiliation by 5:00PM MST
February 10	Final date to Register a Player to a Team
February	U18 ‘AAA’ Regular Season ends *
	U18 ‘AAA’ Playoffs begin *
March	U15 ‘AAA’ & U17 AAA Regular Season ends *
	U15 ‘AAA’ & U17 AAA Playoffs begin *
	U15 ‘AAA’ Provincial Championship *
	U18 ‘AAA’ Provincial Championships *
April	U17 ‘AAA’ Provincial Championship *
	Pacific Regional Championship (U18 ‘AAA’)
	Telus Cup (U18 ‘AAA’)

*\* These dates reflect the ideal state and actual dates may alter somewhat from these targets.*

### **5. DRAW ZONES**

To establish a fair and equitable structure for all ‘AAA’ teams, *Draw Zones* have been established. Draw Zones ensure there is an opportunity for all players that want to play, and have the skill to play, ‘AAA’ hockey the ability to access it. The Draw Zones establish a consistent development system for players throughout the Province by structuring a feeder system from Minor Hockey up through ‘AA’ and into ‘AAA’.

- 5.1 Draw Zones for each Division and Category within ‘AAA’ Hockey do not overlap.
- 5.2 MHA's are assigned to one specific Draw Zone and the players registered within those MHA's make up the feeder system for the team(s).
- 5.3 Hockey Edmonton and Hockey Calgary, as MHA's, may structure smaller Draw Zones within their boundaries.
- 5.4 Each Draw Zone has a Host MHA identified within it, and this Host MHA is responsible for operating the ‘AAA’ Team(s) identified for the area, in accordance with these Regulations.
- 5.5 Draw Zones are based on registration numbers, geographic locations and travel time to the Host MHA.
- 5.6 There are no Draw Zones for U13 ‘AAA’, however Host MHA's have still been identified by Hockey Alberta to host each U13 ‘AAA’ Team. Players new to U13 ‘AAA’ are eligible to tryout as follows:
  - (a) Players whose Primary MHA hosts a U13 ‘AAA’ Team, must tryout with their Primary MHA.
  - (b) Players whose Primary MHA does not host a U13 ‘AAA’ Team, may tryout for the closest team that will accept them.



# ‘AAA’ HOCKEY

Lethbridge U18 AAA		Okotoks U18 AAA	
Bassano Bow Island Brooks Cardston Claresholm Coaldale Crowsnest Pass Duchess Foremost Fort MacLeod Irvine Kainai	Lethbridge Magrath Medicine Hat Oyen Picture Butte Piikani Nation Pincher Creek Raymond Redcliff Taber Vauxhall	Chestermere East Wheatland Foothills High Country Indus	Nanton Okotoks Rockyford Siksika Strathmore Vulcan
Medicine Hat U17 AAA	Lethbridge U17 AAA	Okotoks U17 AAA	
Bassano Bow Island Brooks Duchess Foremost Irvine Medicine Hat Oyen Redcliff	Cardston Claresholm Coaldale Crowsnest Pass Fort MacLeod Kainai Lethbridge Magrath Picture Butte Piikani Nation Pincher Creek Raymond Taber Vauxhall	Chestermere East Wheatland Foothills High Country Indus	Nanton Okotoks Rockyford Siksika Strathmore Vulcan
Medicine Hat U15 AAA	Lethbridge U15 AAA	Okotoks U15 AAA	
Bassano Bow Island Brooks Duchess Foremost Irvine Medicine Hat Oyen Redcliff	Cardston Claresholm Coaldale Crowsnest Pass Fort MacLeod Kainai Lethbridge Magrath Picture Butte Piikani Nation Pincher Creek Raymond Taber Vauxhall	Chestermere East Wheatland Foothills High Country Indus	Nanton Okotoks Rockyford Siksika Strathmore Vulcan



# ‘AAA’ HOCKEY

<b>Airdrie U18 AAA</b>	<b>Red Deer U18 AAA</b>
<div> <div>Airdrie</div> <div>Banff</div> <div>Beiseker</div> <div>Canmore</div> <div>Cochrane</div> <div>Cremona</div> </div> <div> <div>Drumheller</div> <div>Hanna</div> <div>Kneehill</div> <div>Morrin</div> <div>RMAA</div> </div>	<div> <div>Bashaw</div> <div>Big Valley</div> <div>Blackfalds</div> <div>Blindman Valley</div> <div>Bowden</div> <div>Caroline</div> <div>Clive</div> <div>Delburne</div> <div>Endmoor</div> </div> <div> <div>Innisfail</div> <div>Lacombe</div> <div>Olds</div> <div>Red Deer</div> <div>Rocky Mountain House</div> <div>Spruce View</div> <div>Stettler</div> <div>Sundre</div> <div>Sylvan Lake</div> </div>
<b>Airdrie U17 AAA</b>	<b>Red Deer U17 AAA</b>
<div> <div>Airdrie</div> <div>Banff</div> <div>Beiseker</div> <div>Canmore</div> <div>Cochrane</div> <div>Cremona</div> </div> <div> <div>Drumheller</div> <div>Hanna</div> <div>Kneehill</div> <div>Morrin</div> <div>RMAA</div> </div>	<div> <div>Bashaw</div> <div>Big Valley</div> <div>Blackfalds</div> <div>Blindman Valley</div> <div>Bowden</div> <div>Caroline</div> <div>Clive</div> <div>Delburne</div> <div>Endmoor</div> </div> <div> <div>Innisfail</div> <div>Lacombe</div> <div>Olds</div> <div>Red Deer</div> <div>Rocky Mountain House</div> <div>Spruce View</div> <div>Stettler</div> <div>Sundre</div> <div>Sylvan Lake</div> </div>
<b>Airdrie U15 AAA</b>	<b>Red Deer U15 AAA</b>
<div> <div>Airdrie</div> <div>Banff</div> <div>Beiseker</div> <div>Canmore</div> <div>Cochrane</div> <div>Cremona</div> </div> <div> <div>Drumheller</div> <div>Hanna</div> <div>Kneehill</div> <div>Morrin</div> <div>RMAA</div> </div>	<div> <div>Bashaw</div> <div>Big Valley</div> <div>Blackfalds</div> <div>Blindman Valley</div> <div>Bowden</div> <div>Caroline</div> <div>Clive</div> <div>Delburne</div> <div>Endmoor</div> </div> <div> <div>Innisfail</div> <div>Lacombe</div> <div>Olds</div> <div>Red Deer</div> <div>Rocky Mountain House</div> <div>Spruce View</div> <div>Stettler</div> <div>Sundre</div> <div>Sylvan Lake</div> </div>



# ‘AAA’ HOCKEY

Leduc U18 AAA		Fort Saskatchewan U18 AAA	
Beaumont Camrose Devon Drayton Valley Leduc Maskwacis	Millet New Sarepta Ponoka West 39 Wetaskiwin	Athabasca Boyle CNN Elk Island Fort McMurray Fort Saskatchewan Goodfish Lake Lac La Biche Plamondon Redwater	Saddle Lake Smoky Lake St. Paul Sturgeon Thorhild Two Hills Vegreville Wabasca Westlock
Leduc U17 AAA		Fort Saskatchewan U17 AAA	
Beaumont Camrose Devon Drayton Valley Leduc Maskwacis	Millet New Sarepta Ponoka West 39 Wetaskiwin	Athabasca Boyle CNN Elk Island Fort McMurray Fort Saskatchewan Goodfish Lake Lac La Biche Plamondon Redwater	Saddle Lake Smoky Lake St. Paul Sturgeon Thorhild Two Hills Vegreville Wabasca Westlock
Leduc U15 AAA		Fort Saskatchewan U15 AAA	
Beaumont Camrose Devon Drayton Valley Leduc Maskwacis	Millet New Sarepta Ponoka West 39 Wetaskiwin	Athabasca Boyle CNN Elk Island Fort McMurray Fort Saskatchewan Goodfish Lake Lac La Biche Plamondon Redwater	Saddle Lake Smoky Lake St. Paul Sturgeon Thorhild Two Hills Vegreville Wabasca Westlock



# **‘AAA’ HOCKEY**

Sherwood Park U18 AAA		St. Albert U18 AAA	
Battle River Holden Sherwood Park	Strathcona Thunderstars Tofield Viking	Barrhead CR Knights Edson Enoch Fox Creek Hinton Jasper Mayerthorpe Pembina	Spruce Grove Stony Plain St. Albert Swan Hills Whitecourt
Sherwood Park U17 AAA		St. Albert U17 AAA	Spruce Grove U17 AAA
Battle River Holden Sherwood Park	Strathcona Thunderstars Tofield Viking	Barrhead CR Knights St. Albert	Edson Enoch Fox Creek Hinton Jasper Mayerthorpe Pembina Spruce Grove Stony Plain Swan Hills Whitecourt
Sherwood Park U15 AAA		St. Albert U15 AAA	Spruce Grove U15 AAA
Battle River Holden Sherwood Park	Strathcona Thunderstars Tofield Viking	Barrhead CR Knights St. Albert	Edson Enoch Fox Creek Hinton Jasper Mayerthorpe Pembina Spruce Grove Stony Plain Swan Hills Whitecourt



# **‘AAA’ HOCKEY**

Lloydminster U18 AAA		Grande Prairie U18 AAA	
3Cs Bonnyville Chauvin Cold Lake Edgerton Elk Point Frog Lake Glendon Hughenden Irma	Kitscoty Lloydminster Mallaig Mannville Marwayne-Dewberry Onion Lake Paradise Valley Provost Vermilion Wainwright	Beaverlodge Clairmont East Smoky Fairview Grande Cache Grande Prairie Grimshaw Grovedale High Level High Prairie Horse Lake Hythe La Crete La Glace	Loon River Manning Nampa Peace River Rainbow Lake Rycroft Savanna Sexsmith Slave Lake Smoky River Spirit River Valleyview Wembley
Lloydminster U17 AAA		Grande Prairie U17 AAA	
3Cs Bonnyville Chauvin Cold Lake Edgerton Elk Point Frog Lake Glendon Hughenden Irma	Kitscoty Lloydminster Mallaig Mannville Marwayne-Dewberry Onion Lake Paradise Valley Provost Vermilion Wainwright	Beaverlodge Clairmont East Smoky Fairview Grande Cache Grande Prairie Grimshaw Grovedale High Level High Prairie Horse Lake Hythe La Crete La Glace	Loon River Manning Nampa Peace River Rainbow Lake Rycroft Savanna Sexsmith Slave Lake Smoky River Spirit River Valleyview Wembley
Lloydminster U15 AAA		Grande Prairie U15 AAA	
3Cs Bonnyville Chauvin Cold Lake Edgerton Elk Point Frog Lake Glendon Hughenden Irma	Kitscoty Lloydminster Mallaig Mannville Marwayne-Dewberry Onion Lake Paradise Valley Provost Vermilion Wainwright	Beaverlodge Clairmont East Smoky Fairview Grande Cache Grande Prairie Grimshaw Grovedale High Level High Prairie Horse Lake Hythe La Crete La Glace	Loon River Manning Nampa Peace River Rainbow Lake Rycroft Savanna Sexsmith Slave Lake Smoky River Spirit River Valleyview Wembley



**'AAA' HOCKEY**

<b>Hockey Calgary U18 AAA</b>	<b>Hockey Edmonton U18 AAA</b>
4 U18 AAA	2 U18 AAA
<b>Hockey Calgary U17 AAA</b>	<b>Hockey Edmonton U17 AAA</b>
4 U17 AAA	4 U17 AAA
<b>Hockey Calgary U15 AAA</b>	<b>Hockey Edmonton U15 AAA</b>
4 U15 AAA	4 U15 AAA



## **‘AAA’ HOCKEY MODEL**

### **6. PROGRAM PROMOTION AND PLAYER RECRUITMENT**

- 6.1 Teams are permitted to host “Spring ID” camps for prospective players **starting April 1**.
- 6.2 Players who are registered to a team that has not yet completed their season are not eligible to be recruited and/ or to participate in camps, practices, information days, etc. until their Team’s season is complete.

### **7. PLAYER AGREEMENTS**

- 7.1 To be eligible to play for a ‘AAA’ Team during the regular season, playoffs, and provincials, MHAs must obtain a commitment, in writing, from all players via a “Player Agreement”.

### **8. TRYOUT PROCEDURES**

The top, eligible, players should be selected for each team, regardless of **their Primary MHA** within the Draw Zone. An objective of ‘AAA’ Hockey is to provide opportunities for the best players to play at the highest level.

- 8.1 To align the different levels of hockey, supporting player pathways and the established feeder system within Alberta, ‘AAA’ Teams are not permitted to begin the player evaluation and selection process for the current season until *August 15*.
- 8.2 Players are expected to access their first tryout within the Draw Zone that draws from their **Primary MHA**.
- 8.3 If extenuating circumstances apply (i.e. considerably closer for travel, move without parent transfers), Players may apply to access their first tryout within a different Draw Zone.

Applications must be submitted using the Elite Player Movement form and supporting documentation must be included. Applications will be accepted from May 1 to July 1 and all decisions will be rendered by **July 15**.

- 8.4 Players are asked to declare, by September 15, whether they are electing to participate in ‘AAA’ tryouts within their Draw Zone (Players that do not notify their Draw Zone of their intent to tryout by this date may miss their opportunity to access the ‘AAA’ tryout process).
- 8.5 Any Player may tryout for a ‘AAA’ team provided they are eligible to be registered with that team.
- 8.6 Host MHAs operating ‘AAA’ Hockey Teams must allow Players to have the opportunity to tryout and register with a team they are eligible for.
- 8.7 MHA’s hosting Draw Zone Teams must ensure that there are no restrictions on players from outside that respective MHA, but within the Draw Zone, from making the ‘AAA’ Team.
- 8.8 Players are afforded the opportunity to tryout for a maximum of two (2) ‘AAA’ teams within a specific Division of hockey.



## 'AAA' HOCKEY

Exception: A 15-year-old Player is only permitted to tryout with one (1) U18 'AAA' Team.

Players that do not make the first team they are trying out for will be provided an Elite Waiver. After receiving an Elite Waiver:

- (a) a Player has seven (7) days to contact and arrange a tryout with a second 'AAA' team;  
or
- (b) a Player can access a 'AA' tryout within a Recruitment Area that they are eligible to register in;  
or
- (c) a Player can return to their **Primary MHA** to access other minor hockey programs.

Players that cannot, or choose not to, arrange a second tryout within seven (7) days of being provided an Elite Waiver will be returned to their **Primary MHA**.

- 8.9 A list of the names of players trying out for each specific age Division (noting their **Primary MHA**) must be sent to all MHAs that have players participating at tryouts. An updated list must be completed weekly until the Team is formed.
- 8.10 Host MHAs must ensure they have a plan for accommodating players that are selected to their Teams. This includes living arrangements for players that need to be billeted, coordinating schedules with schools so players can maintain their academics, and scheduling tryouts to ensure out of town players can properly participate.

## 9. TRYOUT ROSTERS

In 'AAA' hockey, each Team is provided the opportunity to utilize Tryout Rosters (properly registered in the registry) during Exhibition and Pre-Season games for the purpose of Team roster declaration.

- 9.1 Host MHAs are required to obtain commitments, in writing, from all players prior to registering them as a tryout player (refer to the "Player Agreement" process).
- 9.2 U18 'AAA' Tryout Rosters
  - (a) During the tryout portion of the season, U18 'AAA' teams will be required to register all players remaining in the formal tryout process onto a Tryout Roster no later than September 15 of each season.
  - (b) Each Team can list a maximum of 40 players on their Tryout Roster.
  - (c) Players listed on the Tryout Roster will be eligible to continue in the tryout process by participating in exhibition games and/ or preseason tournaments.
  - (d) Players that do not make the Tryout Roster will be provided an Elite Waiver by the Host MHA.
  - (e) U18 'AAA' teams who do not declare the maximum of 40 players for the Tryout Roster will be eligible to add players approved for second tryouts, or players returning from Junior Hockey to participate in exhibition games and/ or preseason tournaments.
  - (f) Teams who release players from their Tryout Roster will not be able to register additional players in their place.
  - (g) The AEHL U18 'AAA' division has declared five (5) games at the beginning of the season as "Pre-Season" for the purpose of Team roster declaration. This window enables Teams to accommodate the tryout processes of other levels of hockey by giving MHAs the option to keep tryout/ roster spots open for Players that may be returned from Junior. U18 'AAA'



## 'AAA' HOCKEY

Teams will register as follows:

- i. In advance of the five (5) "Pre-Season" games, by September 25, U18 'AAA' teams will have **no more than 25 players** remaining in the formal tryout process.
- ii. By September 30, U18 'AAA' Teams will register a **maximum of 15 Players** to their official team roster in the registry.
- iii. Beyond the 15 registered players, by September 30, teams will declare **an auxiliary list of 10 players** that will remain on tryout during the five (5) scheduled "Pre-Season" games.
- iv. Prior to a Team's 6<sup>th</sup> scheduled League game, tryouts will be complete and team rosters must be finalized with all players properly registered in the Registry.

Note: Players who return from Junior Tryouts after September 30 will be eligible to join the formal tryout process of their Draw Zone team and will not count against the 25-player requirement. These players must either be registered to the teams' official team roster or added as an addition on the teams auxiliary list of tryout players.

### 9.3 U17 'AAA' and U15 'AAA' Tryout Rosters

- (a) During the tryout portion of the season, U17 'AAA' and U15 'AAA' teams will be required to register all players remaining in the formal tryout process onto a Tryout Roster.
- (b) Each Team can list a maximum of 40 players on their Tryout Roster.
- (c) Players listed on the Tryout Roster will be eligible to continue in the tryout process by participating in exhibition games and/ or preseason tournaments.
- (d) Players that do not make the Tryout Roster will be provided an Elite Waiver by the Host MHA.
- (e) Teams who do not declare the maximum of 40 players for the Tryout Roster will be eligible to add players approved for second tryouts, or players returning from Junior Hockey to participate in exhibition games and/ or preseason tournaments.
- (f) Teams who release players from their Tryout Roster will not be able to register additional players in their place.

## 10. PLAYER ACCELERATION

One of the objectives of 'AAA' Hockey is to develop players within their specific age group, and not to displace players from their age Division by facilitating the movement of underage players.

10.1 Each 'AAA' Team is provided the ability to register a maximum of one (1) underage Player, at any one time during the season, provided the underage Player:

- (a) For U18, is a second-year U15 aged player (14-year-old);  
For U15, is a second-year U13 aged player (12-year-old);  
For U13, is a second-year U11 aged player (10-year-old);
- (b) participated in the tryout process and is selected for the Team;
- (c) is otherwise eligible to be registered to the Team.

10.2 Underage Players are not eligible for a second tryout at the accelerated Division.



## **‘AAA’ HOCKEY**

### **11. AFFILIATION**

To facilitate athlete development within ‘AAA’ Hockey, Affiliation is permitted within each Draw Zone.

- 11.1 ‘AAA’ Teams can Affiliate eligible players that are registered with an MHA within their specific Draw Zone.
- 11.2 To be approved as an affiliate player for a ‘AAA’ Team, players must be eligible in accordance with the Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada Regulations.
- 11.3 Providing affiliation has been properly filed, an affiliated Player may play with the Hockey Team to which the Player is affiliated up to a maximum of ten (10) games, excluding exhibition and tournament games.

Should an affiliated Hockey Player play more than ten (10) games with the Hockey Team to which the player is affiliated, they shall be considered an “Ineligible Player”.

If the player’s registered team completes its regular season and playoffs before the player’s affiliated team, the player may thereafter affiliate an unlimited number of times.

- 11.4 All Players must agree to register as an affiliate by completing a “Named Player Affiliation Agreement” with the ‘AAA’ Team. The Agreement must be uploaded to the request for affiliation in the registry.

### **12. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- 12.1 Provincial Championships for each Division of ‘AAA’ Hockey will be operated by Hockey Alberta and teams participating in the Championship will be determined through League play.
- 12.2 Only Hockey Alberta ‘AAA’ Teams approved to participate in the AEHL will be eligible to play for the Provincial Championship at their respective Division.

### **13. EXPANSION AND CONTRACTION OF TEAMS**

**Hockey Alberta will establish annual review protocols and thresholds that will determine if expansion or contraction is required at ‘AAA’. If it is determined that expansion or contraction needs to occur, the Elite Hockey Committee will proactively work with Member MHAs to implement the changes.**